

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PINS UR IS UNSC UG
SUBJECT: PRAVDA AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON ENTEBBE RESCUE OPERATION

REF: MOSCOW 10871

1. SUMMARY. YURIY ZHUKOV IN PRAVDA AND MINDEF ORGAN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA JULY 10 SHARPLY ATTACK ISRAELI RESCUE OPERATION, SUPPORT UNSC MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. BY PICKING UP MOST OF THE THEMES IN YESTERDAY'S NOVOYE VREMYA PIECE (REFTTEL) AND ADDING SOME, PRAVDA'S "POLITICAL OBSERVER" YURIY ZHOKOV AND KZ'S V. VINOGRADOV RAISE THE LEVEL AND GIVE A MORE AUTHORITATIVE CAST TO SOVIET CONDEMNATION.

3. MAJOR THEMES IN ALL THREE ARTICLES ARE: ORIGINAL HIJACKING WAS BAD, AND HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY PLO; AMIN WAS DOING THE BEST HE COULD; ISRAELI "RAID" (TITLE OF ZHUKOV'S PIECE) IS VIOLATION OF URGANDAN SOVEREIGNTY WORTHY OF ISRAELIS; UNSC MEETING IS JUSTIFIED. NONE PREDICT HOW SOVIETS WILL ACT OR
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VOTE IN UN, BUT TREND IS CLEAR.

4. HIJACKERS AND RESCUERS ARE CURSED WITH NOT QUITE EQUAL FERVOR. HIJACKERS SAYS THEIR "PROVOCATIVE" ACTS ARE "INHUMAN" AND THAT PLO "DECISIVELY CONDEMNED THEM"; AND BOTH SEE "WORLD PUBLIC OPINION" DOING THE SAME "JUSTIFIABLY". TOUGHEST EPITHETS, HOWEVER, GO TO ISRAELIES: "GANGSTERS' METHODS" FOR ZHUKOV AND "BARBARIC ATTACK" FOR VINOGRADOV.

5. NEW ELEMENTS, COMPARED TO NOVOYE VREMYA, ARE WHOLE STRING OF CONDEMNATORY QUOTES FROM WORLD PRESS, ESPECIALLY BCP DAILY MORNING STAR; ZHUKOV'S INDIGNANT REFERENCE TO SULZBERGER'S SPECULATION ABOUT SPECIAL EC AND NATO ANTI-TERRORIST COMMANDOS AND TO REAGAN AND U.S.-FRG PRESS PRAISE FOR RESCUE; ZHUKOV'S POINT THAT RESCUE OPERATION DESERVES SPECIAL BLAME "BECAUSE IT ERECTS SUCH ACTIONS INTO PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY"; AND VINOGRADOV'S DESCRIPTION (FROM MORNING STAR) OF ANTI-ISRAELI TERRORISM AS CONSEQUENCE OF ISRAELI'S REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE JUST RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS, I.E., THEY DESERVE IT BUT HAVE NO RIGHT TO STRIKE BACK.

6. COMMENT. WE SUSPECT THIS AUTHORITATIVE CENTRAL PRESS REACTION HAS BEEN SO LONG COMING BECAUSE IT TAKES TIME, FIRST, TO WORK OUT A LINE WHICH CONDEMNS BOTH TERRORISM AND ISRAELIS AND, SECOND, TO COLLECT SOME FOREIGN PRESS REACTION WHICH APPEARS CONSISTENT WITH SOVIET POSITION.
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